



# Resource Management Inc.

October 24, 2005

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns  
US Department of Agriculture  
Farm Bill  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3355

Dear Secretary Johanns:

Resource Management, Inc. (RMI) strongly encourages the USDA to continue funding research on the use of alternative fertilizers and soil building materials. The use of biosolids, wood ash, and papermill residuals is a significant component of the soil and crop enhancement strategy employed by several of the remaining dairy operations in New Hampshire. Research on the efficacy of this practice is critical in maintaining the viability of this option for New England farms. Research provides the scientific foundation on which policies are built, and is important for public debate and development of the regulatory framework.

Specifically, the work done by researchers such as Dr. Rufus Chaney is integral in providing state and EPA regulatory agencies with the technical information needed to develop defensible policies and practices. Work should continue in the areas of phosphorus impacts, pathogens, and public health.

USDA has been a leader in this arena, and should continue this role. Thank you for your consideration of these comments as you craft the 2007 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

Shelagh Connelly  
President

*RMI works with over 500 farms throughout New England and New York that use biosolids, wood ash, or short paper fiber products to improve soil quality and crop production.*

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SEC. STAFF, USDA

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